

NATURAL NEWS



The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

March 22, 1996

MCCARTER TO HEAD THE FIELD

John W. McCarter, Jr. was introduced to the staff by Leo F. Mullin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and Sandy Boyd on Tuesday, March 19, 1996, in the Founders' Room. For those staff who were unable to attend, we are publishing a copy of a letter written by Mr. Mullin to introduce Mr. McCarter to The Field Museum family:

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you will forgive this impersonal communication, but I want to bring great news of the Museum to you immediately. After a nationwide search -- both outside and inside the Museum -- I am thrilled to report that the Board of Trustees has found an extraordinary leader for the Museum right here in Chicago. The Board has elected John W. McCarter, Jr. to serve as President effective October 1, 1996. The Board is confident that it is passing the baton to a person who will clearly guide this great institution into its second century from a position of strength.

John brings to The Field Museum leadership qualities that are viewed as key to its success. A long-time supporter, he has a keen appreciation for its mission and is committed to further developing its leadership role in Chicago and among its peers around the world. He comes to his new role well-equipped, with proven skills in the world of business and with a distinguished record of civic service and experience in the nonprofit sector.

John currently is a partner with the management consulting firm of Booz, Allen & Hamilton and, as such, has had considerable experience at top management levels with organizational and strategic issues. Earlier, he served as president of the international agribusinesses, DeKalb-Pfizer Genetics and the DeKalb Corporation. His experience also includes impressive governmental service. Selected to be a White House Fellow from 1966 to 1967, he served in the U. S. Bureau of the Budget under President Lyndon B. Johnson. He also spent four years as Director of the Bureau of Finance for the State of Illinois.

A 1960 A.B. graduate of Princeton University, Mr. McCarter went on to get his M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School. He currently chairs the Board of Trustees of WTTW, Channel 11 and is a trustee of the University of Chicago.

Continued on next page

MCCARTER TO HEAD THE FIELD continued

John brings to the Presidency of The Field Museum unique and timely leadership qualities:

A keen understanding and appreciation of environmental issues gained as the head of agribusinesses dealing with biological and soil sciences, a major focus of the Museum's future research and exhibit programs.

Experience in the nonprofit sector as the effective board chairman of a major non-profit organization concerned with public education.

Great respect for The Field Museum and its present staff with a strong desire to work with them to implement the Museum's strategic plan.

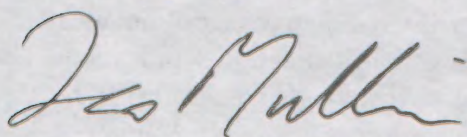
Administrative skills and experience which complement and strengthen the abilities already present and needed in the Museum.

A distinguished record of civic service in Chicago.

I am delighted both personally and as a trustee of The Field Museum that John is stepping into this role during a key juncture for all publicly-supported institutions. I am sure that he will rise to the challenge and, along with the Museum's scientific and administrative staffs, build on Sandy Boyd's legacy of leading The Field Museum to the pre-eminence that it so richly deserves. We all look forward to working with him as partners in this effort.

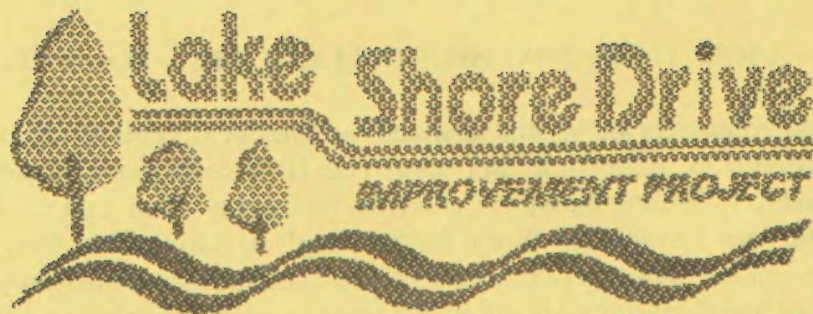
We are so grateful to you for your exceptional commitment to your Museum. You are making it possible for the Museum to be at the forefront of research and public learning about the world's environment and cultures. John looks forward with enthusiasm to working with you in the years ahead.

Sincerely yours,



Leo F. Mullin, Chairman
Board of Trustees,
The Field Museum

Thanks! Thanks to the Security Services staff for going "above and beyond" in the North and West lots to make the Lake Shore Drive construction transition as painless as possible.



**Memorandum to Staff and Volunteers regarding
Lake Shore Drive Relocation / Construction Coordination**

*Adler Planetarium
Field Museum
Shedd Aquarium*

March 1996 / **Memo No. 8**

CHANGE TO NORTH LOT ACCESS

We would like to *thank you all for your patience and cooperation* regarding the temporary change to the north lot access. Every effort is being made to open the connecting lane between the north and west lots, which will make access and circulation easier, and will restore many of the parking spaces lost to this temporary configuration. We will keep you advised of our progress.

MUSEUM SIGNAGE

The first of the Museum Signage created specifically for this construction period will be installed on Thursday and Friday! Signs will help direct vehicular traffic to parking, and pedestrian traffic to the underpass and entrances. Soon we will also add a large identification sign and banners on Lake Shore Drive.



FREE TICKET TO HIGGINS LECTURE -- March 23 at 2:00 p.m.

All staff and volunteers are invited to attend the Chester Higgins Jr. lecture and booksigning on Saturday, March 23, at 2:00 p.m. in Lecture Hall II. This lecture is in conjunction with the traveling exhibit "Feeling the Spirit" currently on display. Using photographs from his book, "Feeling the Spirit: Search the World for the People of Africa," Mr. Higgins will share his experiences on his journey of discovery with the community of African people from England to South Africa and Canada to Argentina. Higgins' work helps redefine early African history and shows a vibrant portrait of the African identity often unseen in mass media. For a free ticket call **Beth Adams** (x854) on Friday, March 22. We look forward to seeing you at the lecture.

NEW SEARLE LOUNGE EXHIBIT

A new exhibit was installed in the Searle Lounge at the north end of the second floor balcony. "Field Museum Research in the Andes" highlights current projects from all four scientific departments:

- Archaeological excavations in the Lake Titicaca region of Bolivia;
- A database of plant material from the unique lomas formations of the western Andes;
- Two recent fossil discoveries from Chile;
- Research on bird and bat speciation and distribution in Peruvian forests.

The exhibit will compliment the Andean symposium scheduled for this Spring, and is scheduled to run through May 28. Thanks to all the many people who helped make this exhibit possible:

Fred Anderson, John Best, Doug DeWitt, Mike Dillon, John Flynn, Rudy Garcia, Wil Grewe-Mullins, Andrew Leman, Bruce Patterson, Kent Peaslee, Chip Stanish, Bill Stanley, Robert Weiglein, Gene Dillenburg.

SPIDERS!

Fax cover sheets featuring this summer's **Spiders!** exhibit are now available. To obtain them for your area, call **Jean Cattell** (x241).

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- either by email (to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org) or on floppy disk -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper. ♻️

Congratulations!

*To Mike Holt, Security
Services, and his wife, Laura,
on the birth of their daughter
Cynthia Ann, on
Wednesday, March 6.*

To **PamBuczowske, Robert Gray** and
Monique Tarleton, Security Services, who
received their Industrial Medical Technician
certification on February 27.

To **Tina Gulley-Augustus**, who was named
to the Dean's List at Harold Washington
College. In recognition of her
accomplishments, Tina has been invited to
join Phi Theta Kappa, the national honors
society for community college students.

Charlie Augustus, the father of **Clifford Augustus** and father-in-law of **Tina Gulley Augustus**
passed away Wednesday, March 6. We extend our deepest sympathy.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

NOON BALLOON

Field Museum's new **Life Underground** exhibit was the subject of the March 12 Noon Balloon. **Francie Muraski-Stotz** began with the exhibit's educational objectives which have been the basis for the story line and exhibit planning. Visitors will start with an underground walk and "shrink down," so that they can view the soil and its many inhabitants 100 times larger than life-size. After being restored to their proper size, visitors will view a large panorama covering the last 20,000 years in northern Illinois. Next, a "World Tour" area will exhibit six very different biomes and their soils. Finally, visitors will have a dynamic virtual observation experience by means of an "experimental micro-touring vehicle." These major areas were described in terms of the ideas and details that will provide the visitor with a rich understanding of the soil ecosystem. Many staff will be helping to make this an exciting and effective exhibit. For more information or suggestions please contact Francie (x533).

The March 19 Noon Balloon was given by **Gregory Buckley**, collection manager in Invertebrate Fossils. His subject was recent fossil discoveries in Madagascar. Greg's slides gave us an overview of how the expedition was organized, the collecting site, and many of the new fossils. Two collecting seasons (in 1993 and 1995) have produced two fine dinosaur and crocodile skeletons, as well as a variety of smaller remains. A number of fossils represent the first record of their group in Madagascar and will be important in helping us understand biogeography of the southern hemisphere 80 million years ago.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

JANET VOIGHT PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE CURATOR OF ZOOLOGY

Janet Voight (Zoology, Invertebrates) has been promoted to associate curator of Zoology in recognition of her accomplishments in the systematics, evolutionary biology and ecology of cephalopods, a group that includes octopods and squids, among other mollusks. Janet has published more than eighteen papers in highly prestigious scientific journals, such as *Evolution* and *Marine Biology*, in which she has explored the genealogical relationships among cephalopods as well as population ecology and the basis for morphological change associated with habitat. Janet also has been heavily involved in the public side of the museum. She has led tours, given a variety of lectures to the public and to donor groups, and contributed substantially to the *What is an Animal?* exhibit.

More recently, Janet has been involved in deep-sea research where she reported on the bizarre mating behaviors of rare octopods, and discovered the role of ammonia in buoyancy of squids. She is now actively involved in studying the fauna of deep-sea hydrothermal vents.

Congratulations Janet!

RIEPEL'S RETURN ROUSES RAPTURE IN RESEARCH REGIONS

The Department of Geology is delighted to welcome **Olivier Rieppel**, Curator of Fossil Reptiles and Amphibians, back to our ranks after several months' leave at the Staatliches

Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart, Germany. Anyone who has ever had the pleasure of working with Olivier will understand the excitement greeting his return. Not only is he a leading figure in paleontology, a broadly interested scholar (having published on evolution and the philosophy of science as well as fossil herps and fishes), and a tireless and productive researcher, but also an aficionado of American rock and roll, an avid fisherman, and one of the funniest curators who ever walked the third floor. We wish Olivier a fond welcome home!

GRADUATE STUDENT WINS FELLOWSHIP

Kate Kelly (University of Chicago graduate student, Zoology) has been awarded the Vessa Notchev Fellowship from Graduate Women in Science. Kate received the fellowship based on a proposal which comprises one section of her doctoral thesis, "Coupling of Anti Predator Characters: Experimental Analysis of Robber Fly Response to Tiger Beetles."

HERENDEEN AWARDED NSF RESEARCH GRANT

Pat Herendeen (Geology) has been awarded a \$99,705 four-year research grant from the National Science Foundation for the project, "Systematics and paleobotany of the Legume Subfamily Caesalpinioideae."

CART MISSING FROM BOTANY

It is dark brown with three tiers and was last seen by the freight elevator on Tuesday, March 12. If found, please leave it by the Botany main office. Thanks very much.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

STANISH INTERVIEW AIRS ON CNN

Last week CNN international and national news broadcast a television interview with Charles Stanish (Anthropology, Chair) held in The Field Museum's Egypt exhibit. Chip was interviewed on humidity and climate control in museums in reference to the closing of the Oriental Institute to install climate controls.

PARTICIPATING IN AIDS RIDE?

At noon on Tuesday, March 26, there will be a meeting of those Museum staff who are participating in the Twin Cities-Chicago AIDS Ride, to coordinate plans and offer mutual encouragement. The meeting will be held in Geology Vertebrate Prep Lab, room 3107. If you want to attend but are unable to fit it into your schedule, please call **Andrew Leman** (x336).

SOFTBALL NEWS

The Field Museum softball team, the Dead Animal Zoo, is seeking a coach for the coming season. Persons interested in assuming the mantle of leadership should call **Gene Dillenburg** (last year's coach, now retired) at ext. 636.

Thanks!

On behalf of my family and myself, I want to thank all those who expressed their condolences over the recent loss of my father. -- **Calvin Gray**